



International Service for Human Rights
www.ishr.ch

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Useful Online Resources, 19 July 2010

OHCHR online resources

Webpage of the High Commissioner for Human Rights: www.ohchr.org.

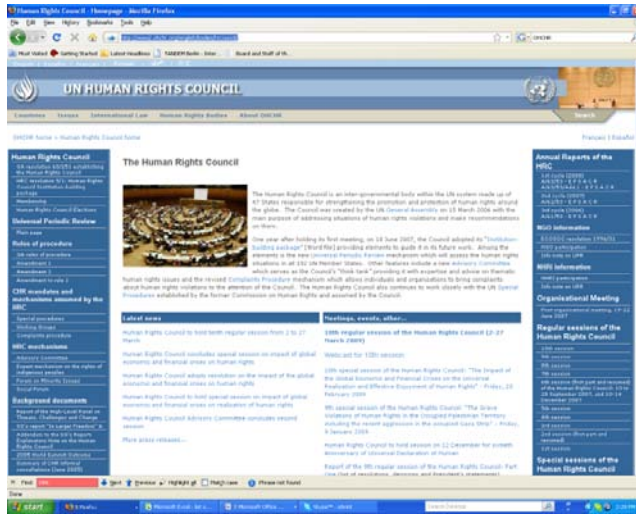
On the right hand side, you have a most useful tool that allows you to search for information on specific countries (*there is indeed a page devoted to each country and providing all information gathered by the UN on this country*)

There are also important links to (1) **The Human Rights Council**, (2) **The Universal Periodic Review - UPR**, (3) **The Treaty Bodies** and (4) **The Special Procedures**

The screenshot shows the United Nations Human Rights Office website. The header includes the UN logo and the text 'United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights'. A search bar is located in the top right. The main navigation menu includes 'Home', 'Your human rights', 'Countries', 'Human rights bodies', 'News and events', 'Publications and resources', and 'About us'. The page content is organized into several sections: 'How we make a difference' with a photo of a meeting; 'Human Rights Council opens its annual main session' with a brief description; 'Human Rights in the news' with several news items; and a sidebar on the right with 'Quick links' and 'Human rights by country'.

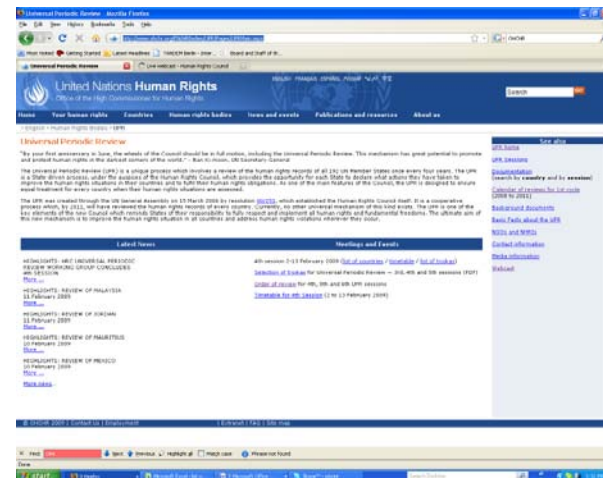
1. The Human Rights Council (<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/>)

This page contains background information, recent news, information for participants, and other useful information on the Council. You can find all the relevant official documents (order of the day, programme of work, bulletin of informal meetings, etc.) on the right hand column of the page of each session (regular/special). You can also access the webcast (live/archive) under “media”, at the bottom of the right hand column. The live webcast is useful if you are unable to attend the session at the Palais, or if you just like putting a face to a name.



2. The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRMain.aspx>)

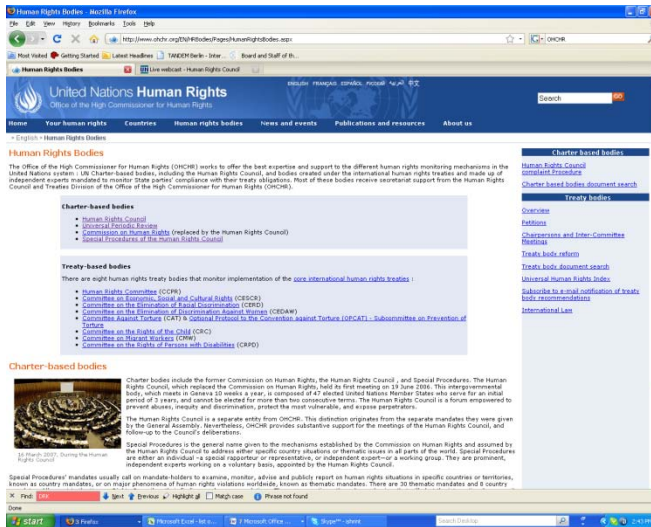
This site contains general information on the UPR procedure and the list of countries which have been selected, as well as practical information such as guidelines for the submission of information. You can also find the documents, which will form the basis of the review (search by session/country).



3. The Treaty Bodies

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/HumanRightsBodies.aspx>

Each treaty body has a separate website containing information on the treaty itself (text, status/signatories, reservations/declarations) and on the Committee (membership, mandate, session, etc...). Under "Sessions" (left hand column), you will find all the documents that you will need to prepare for monitoring a treaty body session and for writing a Treaty Body Monitor report.



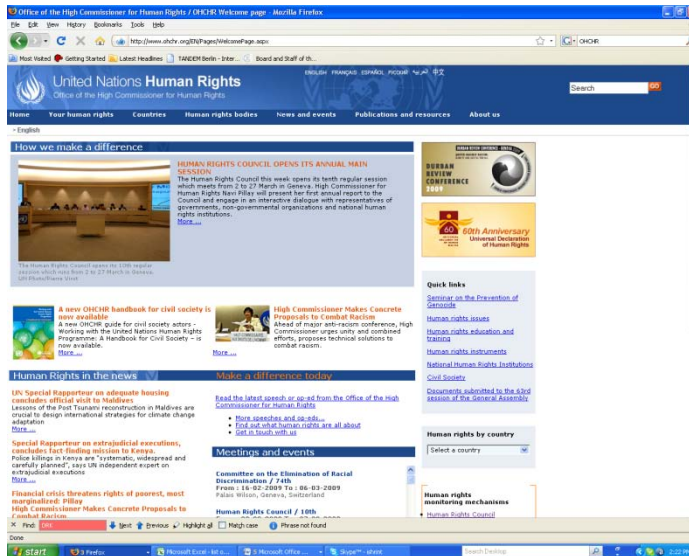
4. The Special Procedures

<http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/chr/special/index.htm>

Each special procedure has a separate website, and these are categorised as "country mandates" and "thematic mandates". These pages contain reports, communications, press releases, and other documents relevant to the specific special procedure.



On the top of the OHCHR home page, there are also some very interesting information for people working in the field of Human Rights. In particular, you'll find here (1) information about the OHCHR presence throughout the world (including contact information) and (2) the OHCHR Publications (most of them can be downloaded).

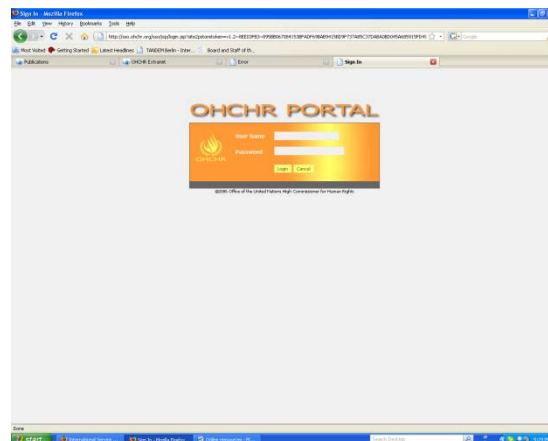


The HRC Extranet (<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/ExtranetLinks.aspx>)

Username : "hrc extranet"

Password : "1session"

Through the HRC Extranet, you can access oral statements, communications from governments, draft reports, etc. If you are looking for a document which has been circulated at the Council, this is where you will find it (theoretically). Note, however, that the secretariat only uploads the documents which have been submitted to it, and it sometimes takes a while to upload them.



III. SEARCH ENGINES

1. **ODS - Official Documents of the UN (<http://documents.un.org>)**

This is an extensive database of all official UN documents. It is most useful when you have the document number.

Tips: you may find the keywords of the documents you are looking for through UN-I-QUE (<http://lib-unique.un.org/lib/unique.nsf>)

2. **OHCHR treaty body document search (<http://tb.ohchr.org/default.aspx>)**

This is a search engine for official UN treaty body documents, and it allows you to search by convention, country/countries, type of document, document symbol, dates, and/or keywords.

3. **Universal Human Rights Index (<http://www.universalhumanrightsindex.org>)**

This is a sophisticated search engine focusing on UN human rights instruments, namely the Human Rights Council, its special procedures, and the treaty bodies. It allows you to search by keyword, country, right/issue, and/or UN body. It is useful when you are not searching for a specific document but instead looking for general information on a certain country or topic.

4. **HuriSearch (<http://www.hurisearch.org>)**

This page allows you to search through over 4,400 websites for documents published by NGOs (including grassroot organisations), academic institutions, NHRIs, and IOs. You can search by language, country of publication, and/or organisation. Through HuriSearch, you can search for information on the fate of an individual, the human rights situation in a country, or information about any human rights issue or theme. Again, it is most useful for finding general information rather than a specific document.